

H. R. 17605

DECEMBER 10, 1974

A BILL

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That this Act may be cited as the “Joint Committee on In-
4 telligence Oversight Act of 1974”.

7 SEC. 2. (a) There is hereby established a Joint Com-
8 mittee on Intelligence Oversight (hereinafter referred to as
9 the "joint committee") which shall be composed of four-
0 teen members appointed as follows:

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1 (1) seven members of the Senate, four to be ap-
2 pointed by the majority leader of the Senate and three
3 to be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
4 and

5 (2) seven members of the House of Representa-
6 tives, four to be appointed by the majority leader of the
7 House of Representatives and three to be appointed by
8 the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

9 (b) The joint committee shall select a chairman and a
10 vice chairman from among its members at the beginning of
11 each Congress. The vice chairman shall act in the place and
12 stead of the chairman in the absence of the chairman. The
13 chairmanship and the vice chairmanship shall alternate be-
14 tween the Senate and the House of Representatives with each
15 Congress. The chairman during each even-numbered Con-
16 gress shall be selected by the Members of the House of Repre-
17 sentatives on the joint committee from among their number
18 and the chairman during each odd-numbered Congress shall
19 be selected by the Members of the Senate on the joint com-
20 mittee from among their number. The vice chairman during
21 each Congress shall be chosen in the same manner from that
22 House of Congress other than the House of Congress of which
23 the chairman is a Member.

24 (c) A majority of the members of the joint committee
25 shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business,

1 except that the joint committee may fix a lesser number as
2 a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony. Vacancies
3 in the membership of the joint committee shall not affect
4 the power of the remaining members to execute the functions
5 of the joint committee and shall be filled in the same manner
6 as in the case of the original appointment.

7 (d) Service of a Senator as a member or as chairman
8 of the joint committee shall not be taken into account for the
9 purposes of paragraph 6 of rule XXV of the Standing Rules
10 of the Senate.

11 DUTIES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

12 SEC. 3. (a) It shall be the duty of the joint committee
13 to conduct a continuing study and investigation of the activ-
14 ities and operations of (1) the Central Intelligence Agency,
15 (2) the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of
16 Justice, (3) the United States Secret Service, (4) the De-
17 fense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense, (5) the
18 National Security Agency, and (6) all other departments
19 and agencies of the Federal Government insofar as the activ-
20 ities and operations of such other departments and agencies
21 pertain to intelligence gathering or surveillance of persons;
22 and to consider proposals for the improvement and reorgani-
23 zation of agencies and departments of the Federal Govern-
24 ment within the jurisdiction of the joint committee.

25 (b) The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency,

1 the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the
2 Director of the Secret Service, the Director of the Defense
3 Intelligence Agency, and the Director of the National Se-
4 curity Agency shall keep the joint committee fully and cur-
5 rently informed with respect to all of the activities of their
6 respective organizations, and the heads of all other depart-
7 ments and agencies of the Federal Government conducting
8 intelligence activities or operations or the surveillance of
9 persons shall keep the joint committee fully and currently
10 informed of all intelligence and surveillance activities and
11 operations carried out by their respective departments and
12 agencies. The joint committee shall have authority to require
13 from any department or agency of the Federal Government
14 periodic written reports regarding activities and operations
15 within the jurisdiction of the joint committee.

16 (c) (1) All bills, resolutions, and other matters in the
17 Senate or the House of Representatives relating primarily to
18 the functions of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal
19 Bureau of Investigation, the United States Secret Service,
20 the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security
21 Agency, or to intelligence or surveillance activities or opera-
22 tions of any other department or agency of the Federal
23 Government shall be referred to the joint committee.

24 (2) No funds may be appropriated for the purpose of
25 carrying out any intelligence or surveillance activity or opera-

1 tion by any office, or any department or agency of the Fed-
2 eral Government, unless such funds for such activity or
3 operation have been specifically authorized by legislation en-
4 acted after the date of enactment of this Act.

5 (3) No bill or resolution, and no amendment to any bill
6 or resolution, and no matter contained in any bill or resolu-
7 tion, in either House, dealing with any matter which is
8 within the jurisdiction of the joint committee shall be con-
9 sidered in that House unless it is a bill or resolution which
10 has been reported by the joint committee of that House
11 (or from the consideration of which such committee has been
12 discharged) or unless it is an amendment to such a bill or
13 resolution. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to
14 deprive any committee of either House from exercising leg-
15 islative oversight with respect to intelligence and surveil-
16 lance activities and operations related to the jurisdiction
17 of such committee.

18 (4) Members of the joint committee who are Members
19 of the Senate shall from time to time report to the Senate,
20 and members of the joint committee who are Members of
21 the House of Representatives shall from time to time report
22 to the House, by bill or otherwise, their recommendations
23 with respect to matters within the jurisdiction of their re-
24 spective Houses and which are referred to the joint commit-
25 tee or otherwise within the jurisdiction of the joint committee.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS

2 SEC. 4. (a) The joint committee, or any subcommittee
3 thereof, is authorized, in its discretion: to make expenditures;
4 to employ personnel; to adopt rules respecting its organiza-
5 tion and procedures; to hold hearings; to sit and act at any
6 time or place; to subpoena witnesses and documents; with
7 the prior consent of the Federal department or agency con-
8 cerned, to use on a reimbursable basis the services of person-
9 nel, information, and facilities of any such department or
10 agency; to procure printing and binding; to procure the tem-
11 porary services (not in excess of one year) or intermittent
12 services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof,
13 and to provide assistance for the training of its professional
14 staff, in the same manner and under the same conditions as
15 a standing committee of the Senate may procure such serv-
16 ices and provide such assistance under subsections (i) and
17 (j), respectively, of section 202 of the Legislative Reorga-
18 nization Act of 1946; and to take depositions and other
19 testimony.

20 (b) Subpenas may be issued over the signature of the
21 chairman of the joint committee or by any member desig-
22 nated by him or the joint committee, and may be served by
23 such person as may be designated by such chairman or mem-
24 ber. The chairman of the joint committee or any member
25 thereof may administer oaths to witnesses. The provisions

1 of sections 102 to 104 of the Revised Statutes (2 U.S.C.
2 192-194) shall apply in the case of any failure of any witness
3 to comply with a subpoena or to testify when summoned
4 under authority of this subsection.

5 CLASSIFICATION OF INFORMATION

6 SEC. 5. The joint committee may classify information
7 originating within the committee in accordance with stand-
8 ards used generally by the executive branch for classifying
9 restricted data or defense information.

10 RECORDS OF JOINT COMMITTEE

11 SEC. 6. The joint committee shall keep a complete record
12 of all joint committee actions, including a record of the votes
13 on any question on which a record vote is demanded. All
14 records, data, charts, and files of the joint committee shall
15 be the property of the joint committee and shall be kept
16 in the offices of the joint committee or such other places
17 as the joint committee may direct.

18 EXPENSES OF JOINT COMMITTEE

19 SEC. 7. The expenses of the joint committee shall be paid
20 from the contingent fund of the Senate from funds appro-
21 priated for the joint committee, upon vouchers signed by the
22 chairman of the joint committee or by any member of the
23 joint committee authorized by the chairman.

98th CONGRESS
2d Session

H. R. 17605

A BILL

To establish a Joint Committee on Intelligence Oversight.

By Mr. STEELMAN

December 10, 1974

Referred to the Committee on Rules